



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie  
National Forest  
Skykomish Ranger District

74920 N.E. Stevens Pass Highway  
P.O. Box 305  
Skykomish, WA 98288  
(360) 677-2414

File Code: 2320

Date: June 1, 2011

Dear Forest User:

The Skykomish Ranger District is beginning the public involvement phase of the Wild Sky Wilderness Trail Plan and we would like your input. The Wild Sky Wilderness Act which was enacted in May 2008 called for a Trail Plan to be established in consultation with interested parties for National Forest System lands within the Wild Sky Wilderness and adjacent areas. The Trail Plan to be established includes a "system of hiking and equestrian trails within the Wild Sky Wilderness" and "a system of trails adjacent to or to provide access to the Wild Sky Wilderness."

A public meeting will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2011 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Park Place Middle School commons in Monroe, WA to take the next step in this process. We will provide an overview of the planning area, a summary of potential issues, and review a map of existing and proposed trail development within the Wild Sky Wilderness and adjacent areas. Attendees will have an opportunity to propose additional trails not included on the draft planning map, provide comments, and identify priority trails for development.

The planning area has been defined as National Forest System lands north of Highway 2 either within the Wild Sky Wilderness or on adjacent lands. My staff has prepared a map and spreadsheet (enclosed) of existing and proposed trails for your review prior to the meeting. The trails shown on the Wild Sky Wilderness Proposed Trail map include trails listed in the 1990 Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, additional trails proposed during a series of public meetings in 1993-1994 to identify trails to help disperse users from the heavily used Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and trails proposed during the Wild Sky Wilderness legislative process.

Most of the trails shown on the planning map are conceptual in nature and have not been ground truthed as far as exact routing or feasibility. Site specific NEPA analysis will be required prior to construction of any of the trails.

We are optimistic that through this planning effort a number of high priority, maintainable, and environmentally sustainable trails will be identified, that would have a broad based support of partnerships to assist in obtaining grants and volunteers for implementation.

The timeline for the next step in preparation of the Wild Sky Trails Plan is preparation of a draft plan beginning in the fall of 2011, which would then be available for review and comment during the winter of 2011-2012.

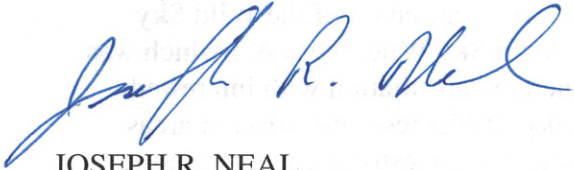
If you have comments or concerns, or any information that would be relevant, please let us know either by email, mail or by phone or by attending the public meeting on June 23. To allow for



consideration of your comments in the analysis we will need to receive your input by October 1, 2011. Tom Davis is the project leader and is available to answer any questions you may have. He may be reached at [tdavis@fs.fed.us](mailto:tdavis@fs.fed.us), or at (360) 677-2242. You may mail comments to Tom at the above address.

Thank you for your interest in the Wild Sky Wilderness Trails Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph R. Neal".

JOSEPH R. NEAL  
District Ranger

encl. map  
spreadsheet